A Letter Communicated from Mr. Thoresby F. R. S. *to* John Evelyn *Eſquire, concerning the Cures done by Mr.* Greatrix *the Stroke.*

SIR,

AS to Mr. *Greatrix*'s Cures, becauſe I was not willing to truſt too much to my own Memory at that diſtance of Time (it being near 20 Years ſince I ſaw him ſtroke any) I have not writ of any, but ſuch as I have ſtill ſome Friends living who were Eye-witneſſes as well as my ſelf, with whom I have compared Notes Yeſterday, and give you nothing but what they think exactly true. The firſt I ſhall mention was my own Brother *John D---n*, which both my Siſter and my ſelf remember to have been ſeized with a violent Pain in his Head and Back, when about 14 Years of Age, one of my Siſters at that time had the Small Pox, and my Mother judging that he was taken with the ſame Diſtemper, uſed no means to remove it, till by accident Mr. *Greatrix* coming to our Houſe, and hearing of his Illneſs, deſired to ſee him, he ordered the Boy to ſtrip him to his Shirt, which he did, and having given preſent Eaſe to his Head by only ſtroking it with his Hands, he fell to rub his Back, which he moſt complained of, but the Pain immediately fled from his Hand to his right Thigh, he followed it there, it fell to his Knee, from thence to his Leg, but he ſtill purſued it to his Ancle, thence to his Foot, and at laſt to his great Toe, as it fell lower, it grew more violent, eſpecially when in his big Toe it made him roar out, but upon rubbing it there it vaniſhed, and the Boy cried out, 'Tis quite gone. It never troubled him after, but he took the Small Pox

above

above 3 Weeks after. The next Inſtance was Mrs. *D--* who was my Uncle *P-----s* Daughter, ſhe was ſeiz'd when a Girl, with a great Pain and Weakneſs, in her Knees, which occaſioned a white Swelling; this followed her for ſeveral Years, and having uſed diverſe means to no effect, after 6 or 7 Years time, Mr. *Greatrix* coming to *Dublin*, and lodging at my Fathers, my Aunt (who is ſtill living and well remembers it) brought her to him, where he ſtroked both her Knees, the Pain flying downwards from his Hand, it drove it out of her Toes, he gave her preſent Eaſe, and the ſwelling in a ſhort Time wore away and never troubled her after. I had alſo a Comerade one Mrs. *L---e* who after a Feaver was much troubled with a Pain in her Ears, and very Deaf, ſhe came to Mr. *Greatrix*, when at my Fathers, I remember he put ſome of his Spittle into her Ears, and turning his Finger in her Ears rubbed and chafed them well, which cured her both of the Pain and Deafneſs, Mrs. *H--y* my oppoſite Neighbour told me Yeſterday, that her Uncle Mr. *Charles L---n*, who was Secretary to the Commiſſioners, was cured by him of the ſame Malady, having much loſt his hearing by ſome accident, till Mr. *Greatrix* by ſtroking reſtored it. Mr. *H---s* Daughter in law Mrs. *S---n* told me her ſelf, that ſhe was, when a Child, extreamly troubled with the Kings Evil, her *M*other ſent her to be ſtrok'd in King *Charles* the 2ds Time to *London*, but ſhe was nothing the better, but *Mr. Greatrix* perfectly cured her. A Smith whoſe Name was *Pierſon* near us had two Daughters extreamly troubled with the Evil, the one in her Thigh, the other in her Arm, he cured them both at my Fathers, one of them lives ſtill in Town, I was with her Yeſterday, ſhe is a healthy Woman, the *M*other of ſeveral Children, ſhe ſhewed me her Arm, where the ſcars the Evil-ſore left ſtill remain, 3 in one Arm, though

'tis

'tis 20 Years ſince they were cured, ſince when ſhe never had any ſymptoms of it.

I could add many things of this Nature, both of what I have ſeen and heard from my *Mother*, who was much more with him than my ſelf, but wanting room ſhall only tell you, that where he ſtroked for Pains, he uſed nothing but his dry Hand, if Ulcers or running Sores he would uſe Spittle on his Hand or Finger, and for the Evil if they came to him before it was broke, he ſtroked it, and ordered them to poulteſs it with boil'd Turneps, and ſo did every Day till it grew fit for lancing, he then lanc'd it and with his Fingers would ſqueeze out the Cores and Corruption, and then in a few Days it would be well with his only ſtroking it every *Morning* thus he cured many who keep well to this , but if it were broke before he ſaw them, he only ſqueezed out the Core, and healed it by ſtroking; ſuch as were troubled with Fits of the Mother, he would preſently take off the Fit, by only laying his Glove on their Head, but I never knew any that he cured of that Diſtemper, for their Fits would return, but I have heard he cured many of the falling Sickneſs, if they ſtay'd with him, ſo that he might ſee them in 3 or 4 Fits, elſe he could not cure them, I have been too tedious, and therefore ſhall not add, but that I am.

Sir,

Dublin May 2d. 1699.

Your humble Servant,

M. M.

Geo-